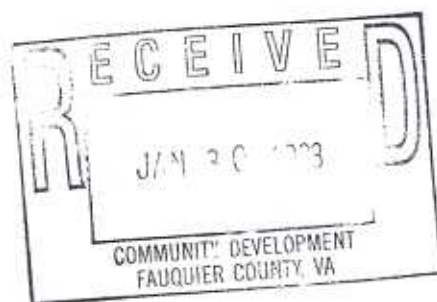


GRC 1/29
RECEIVED 1/29/03

January 23, 2003

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VDOT
457 East Shirley Avenue
Warrenton, VA 20186

Dear Mr. David Cubbage,

I am writing this letter as a follow up to my telephone conversation with Mr. Bob Moore on December 20, 2002 regarding the increased volume of traffic and excessive speeding on Auburn Mill Road in Warrenton, VA.

Over the past few years the traffic flow, as well as the speed of the traffic, has increased immensely on Auburn Mill Road. Based on my observation, the increased traffic flow is due primarily to the construction/addition of the Emerald Oaks community to the northern end of Auburn Mill Road. With the addition of this community, the state required the contractor to construct a connector road (Leland Road) between the existing Auburn Mill Road and Kelly Road, thus providing a significant short cut for travelers between the many communities adjoining Route 605, Dumfries Road, and Route 29 North. While I realize that nothing can be done to curtail the amount of traffic traveling on Auburn Mill Road, it has become quite apparent that the increase in traffic has multiplied the problem of excessive speed. And I believe that something can be done to enforce the posted speed. To date, VDOT has posted 25 MPH Speed Limit signs on Auburn Mill Road (at least 3 signs in each direction between Route 605, Dumfries Road, and Leland Road), as well as lines painted on the road. Neither of these measures has curtailed the speeding situation.

As a resident on Auburn Mill Road, I continuously witness vehicles traveling on Auburn Mill Road well over the posted speeds. I have observed speeds, when Fauquier County Sheriff's Office has their radar car sitting on the road, exceeding 50 MPH. I have also observed vehicles that I perceive to be traveling well above 50 MPH or even 60 on a regular basis, when the posted speed is 25 MPH. Other residents from the community, in addition to me, have called the sheriffs office to report incidents of vehicles speeding on numerous occasions. The Sheriff's Office has been most helpful in trying to curtail the ongoing speeding problem on Auburn Mill Road, by providing deputies in cruisers to monitor/radar the speed. Nevertheless, with the continuous growth of Fauquier County, understandably, these services cannot be provided 24/7. Consequently, when radar is not being run, excessive speed prevails. My overall concern is that someone is going to get seriously hurt if this continues.

As a side note, it is a great pleasure to see the deputies residing on Auburn Mill Road to monitor/radar vehicular speed, and they are welcome to park in my driveway and do so anytime.

As far as safety is concerned, there have been numerous near misses on Auburn Mill Road. I am personally aware of separate incidents involving a boy on a bicycle, and a dog, both being hit by a

car. Most recently, on December 19, 2002, at approximately 4:00 pm, my wife, along with another adult neighbor and six (6) children witnessed one of the children almost struck by a speeding postal vehicle. This particular incident occurred in front of my house at the intersection of Auburn Mill Road and Forrest Court. No more than five (5) minutes after this incident occurred, an empty school bus was flagged down by my wife for apparent speeding around the blind curve. The bus driver acknowledged that she had no idea what the speed limit was, no idea how fast she was traveling, and that "it did not matter". These incidents were immediately reported to Fauquier County's Post Office, Transportation Department, and Sheriffs Office, as well as to VDOT.


Auburn Mill Road is a fairly straight road with a couple slight bends except for a blind, and heavily wooded, bend between Forrest Court and Nuthatch Court. This area is of particular concern for me for countless reasons. First and foremost, I live in the house just before or after the bend depending on the direction of travel. I personally have been a near miss while mowing along the side of the road on several separate occasions. I consider a car missing me by about a foot to be a near miss, no exaggeration. Another case in point is my wife, and other residents, who are daily walkers on Auburn Mill Road, who feel as though they are risking their lives (as well as the lives of their pets and children who accompany them) each time they walk on this sidewalk-less speed haven of a road. Simply said, drivers just are NOT paying close attention to what or who is on or near the road ahead of them, nor do they appear to even care.

At this time, I would like to formally request VDOT to review the possible traffic calming measures that can be implemented on Auburn Mill Road. One option is the installation of 3-Way Stop Signs at key locations on Auburn Mill Road (e.g. Stuart Circle, Forrest Court and Wemberly Road). Another option would be the installation of speed limit signs that indicate on them the assessment of additional fines for speeding. I personally favor the first option, but I believe that either of these measures would help to reduce the speeding situation tremendously.

If needed, I can easily obtain a list of signatures of other residents that live along the Auburn Mill Road corridor, who support this request.

Thank you for your time and efforts in resolving this issue. Please feel free to contact me at any of the telephone numbers above if further communications are necessary.

Sincerely,



Jerry Kerns

Cc: Larry Weeks
Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
40 Culpeper Street
Warrenton, VA 20186

Sheriff Joe Higgs
Fauquier County Sheriffs Office
78 West Lee Street
Warrenton, Virginia 20186